EDLD 5326 School Community Relations

Course Reflection

As a teacher, I feel that it is so important that students have parental involvement at home. It is crucial that students feel that their parents care about the learning process and their achievement at school. It is important that teachers keep the lines of communication open between the parents, students, and teachers. Many times, teachers have access to parents’ cell phone numbers, work phone numbers, home phone numbers, and email addresses. This information can actually increase communication between the parents and the teachers. It would be an advantage for teachers to set up an initial group parents email to keep the lines of communication open at all times. This partnership could help to increase student learning by keeping and maintaining the awareness of what is going on in the classroom. This learning process could then be supported at home with parent involvement and cooperation. As a teacher, I do not have resistance when working with parents and feel that their input can be valuable into having a better understanding of the student as an individual. Having a better understanding of the student can help with the teaching and learning process so that it can be more beneficial for the individual students. At the beginning of the year, all campuses in our district have a goals night where parents and students visit they individual classrooms and have an opportunity to see what students are learning in the classrooms. Teachers pass out the syllabus for the year and are able to explain expectations for their classroom. In this meeting, parents and teachers can have face to face contact and begin building a good working relationship. Continuous contact and communication with parents is very beneficial to student achievement. It is important to not only have communication when dealing with discipline situations, but also communication is important when dealing with situations of positive reinforcement and when complimenting students’ successes. We can make technology pay off when working with our parents as community stakeholders. Technology gives us the benefits of being able to email our parents, being able to have information posted on campus and district websites, being able to use the automated phone system to notify parents of current events, and to utilize Google Doc sites and/or Wiki sites to better keep parents informed about the learning process and events in our classrooms and on campuses. Building that community partnership is a major key in helping the students be successful in the classroom.